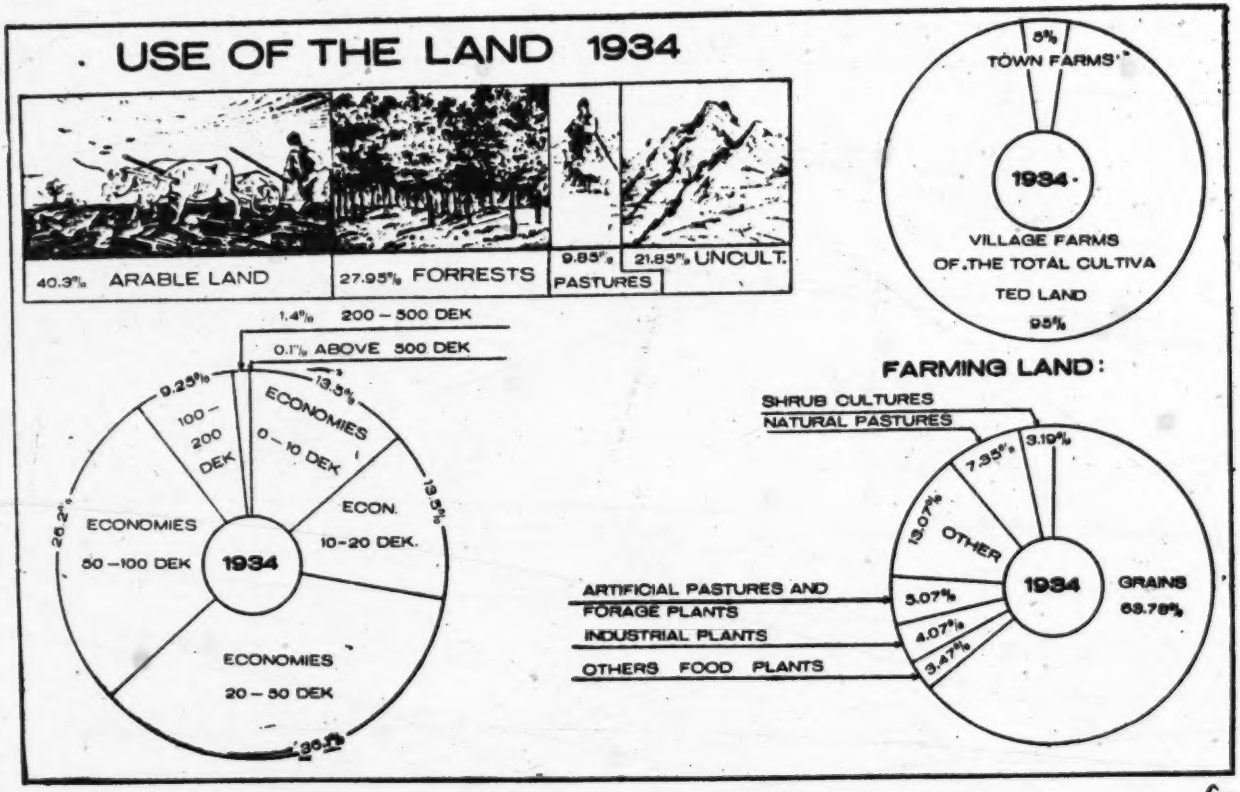
USE OF THE LAND 1934
40.3% ARABLE LAND
27.95% FORRESTS
9.85% PASTURES
21.85% UNCULT.
5%
TOWN FARMS
1934
VILLAGE FARMS
OF THE TOTAL CULTIVA
TED LAND
95%
1.4% 200 – 300 DEK
0.1% ABOVE 300 DEK
9.25%
100 – 200 DEK
13.5%
ECONOMIES 0 – 10 DEK
ECON. 10-20 DEK.
13.5%
ECONOMIES 20 – 50 DEK
30%
ECONOMIES 50 –100 DEK
26.2%
1934
FARMING LAND:
SHRUB CULTURES
NATURAL PASTURES
3.10%
7.35%
13.07%
OTHER
ARTIFICIAL PASTURES AND FORAGE PLANTS
5.07%
INDUSTRIAL PLANTS
4.07%
OTHERS FOOD PLANTS
3.47%
1934
GRAINS
63.79%

Fig. 14.

8: Bojkoff K-4, 5 (no date) 1946 EE1 Bulgaria EE1

These figures show how strongly the people are attached to the cultivation of the land. The background of Bulgarian culture was and still is agricultural labour. 162

44. Bulgaria is a Land of small Ownerships. This is the Background of her Democracy.

Let us show the variety of occupations in Bulgaria. The occupations of 1.284.993 households [1]) in Bulgaria are distributed as follows:

	Households		%
Agriculture	838.899	or	65.2
Manufacture of materials	160.000	„	12.4
Commerce and credit	61.518	„	4.8
Public work and service	38.762	„	3.0
Transport and communications	36.682	„	2.9
Science and education	20.114	„	1.7

The distribution of land property will be shown in the figures below. The total of private properties being 42.810.815 dekars equal to 100%, the distribution is as follows: 423

Husbandries up to 10 decares [2])	1.3 %
„ from 10 to 20 decares	4.0 %
„ „ 20 „ 30 „	6.6 %
„ „ 30 „ 50 „	18.1 %
„ „ 50 „ 100 „	36.9 %
„ „ 100 „ 150 „	17.0 %
„ „ 150 „ 200 „	7.3 %
„ „ 200 „ 300 „	5.2 %
„ „ 300 „ 500 „	2.0 %
„ „ 500 and more	1.6 %

Since at present Bulgaria could not rely on more guaranteed sources of income for her economy, than those which are connected with her agriculture; along with the efforts laid for the improvement of crafts and industries, the Government takes special care for the agriculture of the country, as the main support of the state and the main background of the democracy of her agrarian population. 241 311

How is land worked in Bulgaria? The private and public land for exploitation being 43.684.381 decares equal to 100%, its distriburion is as follows:

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[1]) This information is based on statistics for 1934, which is the last census year.

[2]) One decare = 0.247 acres. One acre = 4.047 decares.

241
311

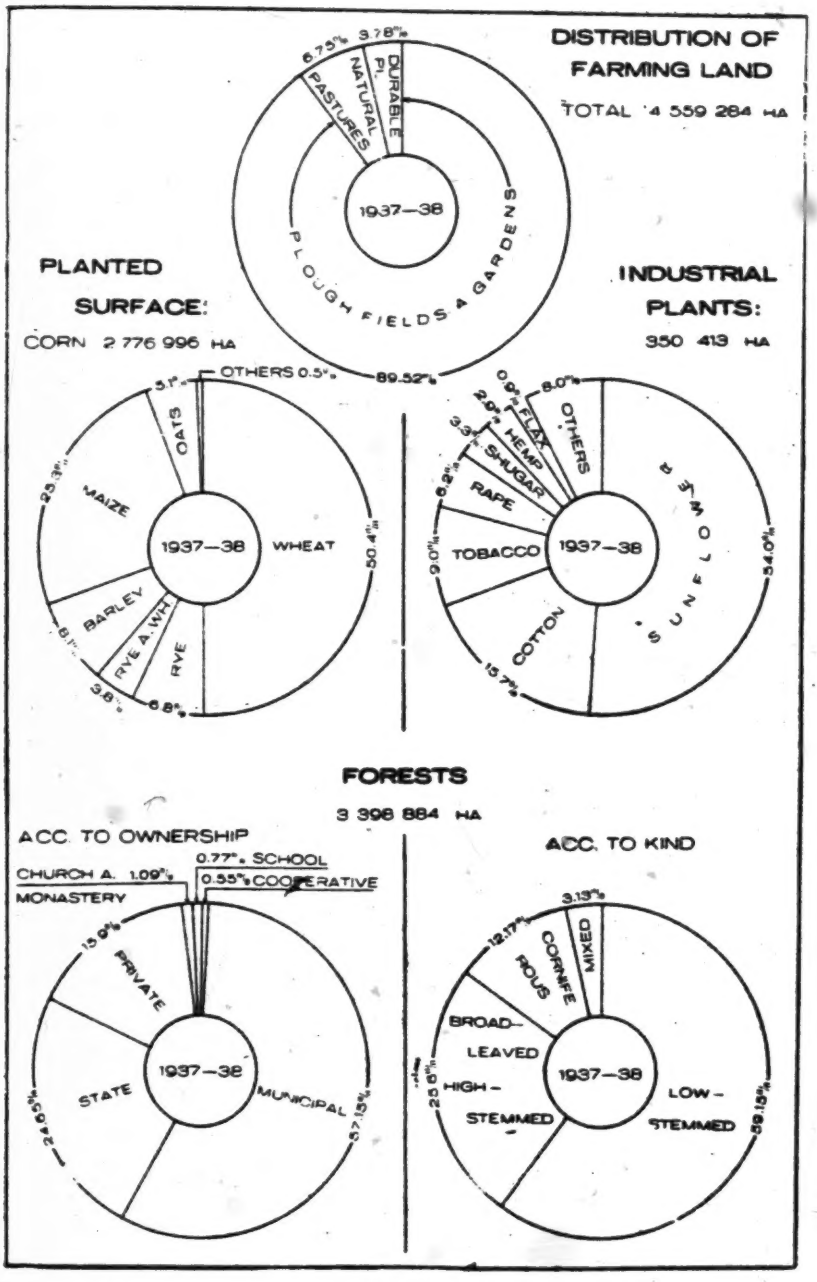

Fig. 16.

241
311

a. Land for cultivation		89.10 %
plough fields	79.40 %	
vegetable gardens	0.45 %	
vineyards	2.48 %	
vine nurseries	0.008 %	
orchards	0.52 %	
mulberry orchards	0.01 %	
rose fields	0.02 %	
meadows	6.02 %	
b. Land — not cultivated		10.90 %
pastures	1.72 %	
forests	8.49 %	
deserted land	0.69 %	
other	0.06 %	

45. Agricultural Production. The distribution of the total country's production is given in percentage values, as follows: 241

	1907-1911	*1930-1934*
grain	62.18 %	58.05 %
industrial plants	1.80	9.68
beans, peas etc.	2.26	2.25
potatoes	0.27	0.96
vegetables	1.87	1.78
forage plants	18.58	15.89
vineyards	10.30	8.45
orchards	1.03	1.40
rose fields	0.69	—
mulberry orchards	0.07	0.13

The above figures show how Bulgarian agriculture turned to more accessible marketing and higher priced products. This situation continues at the present time. The change is evident also from the following figures showing the movement of the country's export after 1911 (vidi Fig. 17 and 18):

ANNUAL AVERAGE

	1907-1911	*1937*	*1938*	*1339*
	amounts in metric tons			
grain	539.404	329.476	172.935	176.635
leaf tobacco	2.051	22.798	33.553	34.761
oleaginous seeds	4.222	64.854	—	43.699
miscellaneous (remnants)	118	45.151	38.961	30.965
fresh vegetables	97	7.359	6.842	8.012
dried vegetables	432	1.102	—	4.364
fresh fruit	1.188	39.890	77.196	72.133
canned fruit	300	7.500	23.296	50.746
wine	8	31	87	19.710

	Year 1929—30	Year 1930—1	Year 1931—2	Average
North Bulgaria	171,06%	146,01%	110.70%	142.59%
Sofia region	179.90%	158.43%	158.28%	165.53%
South Bulgaria	119.60%	125.60%	186.23%	143.81%

This of course has been possible owing to the credits which they have been able to raise from the Agricultural Bank, and to their not applying them to the specific purposes for which these loans were granted; the Agricultural Bank having extended to the rural population credits amounting on an average to 7360 leva per hectare for the smaller category of farmsteads. It must not be thought however that the peasantry has been living wastefully, and has run into debt owing to its being profligate. Very often in periods of drought the Agricultural Bank, under pressure from the State, has been compelled to come to the assistance of the peasantry and to supply them with seed and food, practically with no guarantee. This will largely explain the excessive advances which the Bank has made to the rural population, which, if it were not for this timely aid would have literally starved.

The source of the trouble is that the available land is unsufficient to support the population, and that if it be not provided with more land in order to increase its production up to its requirements, or if it be not assisted financially in order to modernise its methods of cultivation, and thus be able to raise a larger quantity of products on the land it actually possesses, there will be grave danger of a dislocation of the present social fabric

Prof. St. Tsolakov, a colleague of Prof. Dolinski, has published a most interesting essay in the 1934 Annuaire de l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales, of Varna, on the position of the farmers in the Varna region, and on their indebtedness to the State. It is certainly representative of the whole country, and the study of the figures he supplies will convince any one that the problem

000 precept of "Unto him that hath shall be given, and from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath", which, as far as Bulgaria is concerned, they applied in the letter, for Chistian considerations seldom sway them. The present writer well remembers Prof. H. Laski, affirming some fourteen years ago at the London School of Economics, that a certain Cabinet Minister had confided to him, that for ten years he had never heard a Christian thought expressed at the deliberations of the Cabinet! (Obviously not a Labour one).

24/ 311 Though amputated of her richest cornland, the Dobrudja, which represented 12% of the total cultivated surface of Bulgaria, and accounted for over 20% of her grain exports, as well as of western Thrace, which produced the finest brands of Oriental tobacco, the peasantry reacted, as any vigorous organism would do, and, sought by superhuman efforts to adapt itself as best as it could to its new restrained conditions It brought into cultivation hilly and less fertile land, and converted into tilled fields crazing land and forest, so that the surface devoted to cereal cultivation which averaged 2,460,447 hectares during the quinquennial period 1908—12, increased to 2,640,003 hectares in 1933. Owing however, to the increase in 24/ population, the per capita production of cereals substantially diminished, and consequently the surplus available for export decreased from 609,169 tons in 1914, to some 120,000 tons for the season 1933—4, and even this result was achieved by underfeeding the cattle, which deprived of pasturages, mostly converted into cornfields had to

[1] Of the total area of Bulgaria, 6,157,000 hectares, was considered as unfit for tillage, the remaining 4,157,620 hectares, was arable land which was utilised as follows in 1933:

Tilled fields	3,220,013	hectares
Fields lying fallow . .	402,920	"
Vineyards & orchards	125,699	"
Natural prairies . . .	307.766	"

BULGARIA EE 1

almost all farms have high walls of unfired brick which are topped with a small roof of straw. The large gateway is also roofed over and has a small door for people. In the eastern Marica plain the fence is of wickerwork or consists merely of a hedge (Gellert, 1937: 161-62). In eastern Bulgaria the enclosure, if present, is a low one of brushwood (Gellert, 1934: 5). 351 184

In the Marica plain there appears to be a difference between the enclosures in the east and west that cannot be attributed to the presence or absence of the necessary raw materials. Gellert believes that the high enclosures in the west are due to a persistence of Turkish traits (Gellert, 1937: 162). Also, in Sredna Gora and the Sub-Balkan basins high walls are limited to the west (Gellert, 1937: 162). [177]

In the mountains and the Sub-Balkan basins the yards are small and crowded together because there is little arable land (Gellert, 1937: 164). When the enclosures are of stone the yards are rectangular; when the fences are of wood or hedges the yards are often rounded and there is often much free land between the separate yards (Gellert, 1937: 165). 351 [311]

Since the houses are generally built to shelter both men and farm animals and have a number of annexes built onto them, one would expect fewer separate farm buildings. Barns are not typical of central Bulgaria. In Ihtiman we find two-roomed barns made of timber-framing and mud. The eaves may be extended and supported by pillars to form a shelter. Only in the extreme east of the Marica plain are barns widespread. Here a small side annex is added to the barn; the entrance is on the short side where the eaves are extended to form a shelter (Gellert, 1937: 158). In Juricite one finds Turkish store houses being used by the Bulgarian population, although in east Bulgaria they are used almost exclusively by the Turks (Gellert, 1937: 160). These are large buildings of woven brushwood with a straw roof that extends far out to the sides. They are generally built on an incline. The entrance is on the short side and the back is rounded (fig. 39) (Gellert, 1934: 3). In Karlovo Basin one finds store houses of wickerwork with straw roofs which have poles attached to the ridge to prevent the straw from being blown away (Gellert, 1937: 159). Stables for sheep in east Bulgaria are long narrow huts of stone covered with straw or reed (Gellert, 1934: 3). In general the various sheds and shelters for animals are of poor construction and have no particular regional characteristics (Gellert, 1937: 159). 343 184 [177]

Summer kitchens are numerous; they are either built onto the house or are in the open, in which case they are covered by a roof of straw, reed, brushwood or brick that is supported on four poles (Gellert, 1937: 160; 1934: 3). 343 [342]

Buildings Outside the Village. Outside mountain villages one finds shepherds' huts of brushwood, round or rectangular in shape, 342 233